

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: August 25, 2014

Reporter: ANDREW PIERCE

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

## PRE-PROGRAM

President **E.J. HONG** opened the meeting promptly at 12:30 p.m. by asking **GEORGE WHEATON** to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## VISITING ROTARIANS

A.K. Gupta visited from the Rotary Club of Mumbai Sion, India. He was visiting his Stanford Phd candidate son and told us that the club met at the local Gymkhana.

Klaus Heinemann returned to visit us from Gualala, California. The Gualala Club meets at St. Orres, the loveliest restaurant in Mendocino County.

Mark Davis from Seattle Club #4 was also present.

Colleen Bailey, the featured speaker, was also a visiting Rotarian, from the Salinas Club. That club meets at her workplace, the National Steinbeck Center.

## GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

**KATIE SEEDMAN** introduced her husband, Eric Seedman.

**DANA TOM** introduced Cory Wolbach, a staff member for State Senator Jerry Hill. Cory is running for City Council in Palo Alto.

Colleen Bailey from Salinas also brought Elizabeth Welden-Smith.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**DICK FREEMAN** presented a report from the We Care Committee, reminding us that he and **BILL BUSSE** do not have meetings but do look out for sick or missing Rotarians.



## OPENING REMARKS

**DIANA DIAMOND** presented opening remarks concerning Americans' reading habits or lack of thereof. Reading has gone down substantially although e-reading is on the increase. Women read more fiction and particularly books about relationships and love while men read books about war, history and adventure. The decline in reading seems to be across generations and not limited to younger people



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DERRICK BRITT** answered the ongoing question of, why did you join Rotary, by saying that he wished to surround himself with ethical people, since he never encounters those at work. This was perhaps a joke.

**NINA MOORE** reminded us of the New Member Social on September 18<sup>th</sup>, at the home of Past President **MIKE COUCH**.

**MIKE BAIRD** reminded us that the Day at the Oakland A's, a District 5170 event, is on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

The December holiday party, to be held on Tuesday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, could use a pianist and a venue.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

Presidents Club – **DANA TOM** joined the President's Club to honor his unusual recent flurry of travel to Italy, Alaska, and on the bragging side, Minneapolis and Pittsburg.

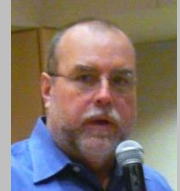


**E.J. HONG** joined the President's Club, and gracefully accepted herself into it, in honor of her daughter going off to college at Carnegie-Mellon.



**ROMAN KAGARLITSKY** joined the President's Club in honor of his six weeks of travel in Europe, about which he refreshingly did not brag at length.

**JOHN BARTON** joined the President's Club in honor of various things, including his oldest son's wedding.



**TOM GRACON** joined the President's Club in order to have another opportunity to mention his alma mater, Carnegie-Mellon.

## PROGRAM ~

**GINNY LEAR** introduced our speaker, Colleen Bailey, who has been the director of the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas since 2009 and was 2010 Salinas Newsmaker of the Year. She has a B.A. from USC and a graduate degree from Northwestern. Colleen also completed course work at the Center for Social Innovation at the Stanford Business School.

Colleen spoke about the history of John Steinbeck, who was from Salinas but also wrote about Monterey and the entire area. The National Steinbeck Center is the largest literary museum of the country with eight themed galleries and provides an interactive multi-sensory experience.



Elizabeth Welden-Smith, the Curator of Education and Public Programs for the National Steinbeck Center spoke about the programs, such as the Young Author's program and the annual Steinbeck Festival. They are attended by 14,000 visitors per year. Last year the Center sponsored a journey retracing the Joad family from the Grapes of Wrath travels from Sallisaw, Oklahoma to Bakersfield, California. Three artists, Octavio Solis, Patricia Wakida and P.J. Palmer took the journey through Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. In addition, there is documentary film in the works with James Franco and a play by Mr. S.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS and EVENTS

**September 1 Dark**

**September 3 10 a.m. Vocational Visit to Stanford Hospital**

**September 8 meeting: Mary Wadden "The History of Silicon Valley in Pictures"**

**September 15 meeting: WALT HAYS: World Community Service**

**September 18 5:30-7:30 pm., Club Social Event, Honoring New Members, at the home of Past President MIKE COUCH**

Info: [www.rotarypaloalto.org](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)